

Adapting to a new CA mission

By Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — As rebuilding efforts progress in Afghanistan, soldiers are getting ready for a shift in mission, said the Army's top Civil Affairs commander recently.

"Our mission has matured — we are no longer doing first aid things," said Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Altshuler, commander of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). "We're still doing impact projects in the smaller areas, but I think we're beginning to contribute to some of the high-impact projects that need to be done to put the infrastructure in the country back on its feet."

Altshuler visited CA units throughout the country in early January, his second such visit in the past seven months.

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Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Ante up...

Over 100 people showed up Friday night for the King and Queen of Spades Tournament. The event was the brainchild of Spc. Richard Robinson, broadcast journalist, 11th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Polk, La. Bagram's Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the building, food, music and prizes while Robinson provided the idea and the rules. For more on the spades tournament, see Page 6.

Five Columbia astronauts were in U.S. military

By the American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Five of the seven astronauts killed aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia were serving U.S. military officers.

The orbiter broke apart above north-central Texas Feb. 1 at about 203,000 feet and was going about 12,500 mph, or Mach 18, when the accident occurred. It was headed for a planned touchdown at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., in about 15 minutes.

The mission commander was Air Force Col. Rick D. Husband. The 45-year-old officer was from Amarillo, Texas. He was married and had two children. Husband received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Texas Tech University in

1980 and a master of science degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Fresno, in 1990.

NASA selected Husband as an astronaut candidate in Dec. 1994. He flew as pilot on STS-96 in 1999, and logged 235 hours and 13 minutes in space.

Navy Cmdr. William C. McCool was the pilot of the Columbia. Born in San Diego, he was 41. He graduated from high school in Lubbock, Texas. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated second in his class in 1983. He was married.

He was selected as an astronaut in 1996. This was his first flight into space.

Air Force Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson, 43, was born in Plattsburgh, N.Y. He received a bachelor of science degree in physics/as-

tronomy from University of Washington in 1981, and a master of science degree in physics from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., in 1990.

He was selected as an astronaut in December 1994. He flew on STS-89 in January 1998.

Navy Capt. (Dr.) David M. Brown was 46 and from Arlington, Va. He received a bachelor of science degree in biology from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., in 1978, and a doctorate in medicine from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1982.

In 1988, he was the only flight surgeon in a 10-year period to be chosen for pilot

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



At launch, a piece of insulating foam came off the external fuel tank, causing a flash and possibly knocking off heat-resistant tiles on the shuttle.

Investigators begin asking questions, assessing data

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, Texas —

Federal investigators arrived in Texas and Louisiana on Sunday and formed teams to undertake the massive task of determining what went wrong when the space shuttle Columbia broke apart Saturday morning.

A series of teams with different tasks — some formed to find debris, others created to assess data compiled during Columbia's final moments — fanned out Sunday afternoon, said Ron Dittmore, NASA's top shuttle program manager. They will report to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, La.

"We're becoming very organized and making progress in support of each other," Dittmore said at a news conference at the Johnson Space Center, near Houston, Texas.

Investigators have determined that something happened to make the temperature on Columbia's left side increase significantly faster than temperatures on its right side, Dittmore said. In five minutes, he said, monitoring devices showed that the temperature on Columbia's mid-fuselage increased by 60 degrees, while the right side recorded a spike of 15 degrees.

Just before the shuttle broke apart, he said, the drag on its left side was so pronounced that the vessel's right ailerons tried to correct the drag to keep Columbia on an even keel.

"Soon after, we had loss of signal," Dittmore said.

Also Sunday, investigators turned their attention to Lockheed Martin's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans where the shuttle's external fuel tank was built. A piece of foam fell off the 154-foot tank during launch Jan. 16, striking heat-resistant tiles on the shuttle's left wing, NASA officials said.

After extensive analysis, NASA officials determined that the mishap did not present a safety concern for the shuttle, but in light of Columbia's disintegration at 200,000 feet, chief flight director Milt Heflin said, investigators would take a closer look at the incident.

Bush: More money for NASA

WASHINGTON — President Bush wants to boost funding for NASA by almost a half-billion dollars to modernize the space agency's aging shuttle fleet and develop a new space plane, an administration official said Sunday.

In the 2004 budget, a document outlining \$2.2 trillion in proposed spending, Bush plans to bump NASA spending by nearly \$500 million to \$15.47 billion. The program has undergone cutbacks during the past decade.

White House officials disputed any suggestion that the disintegration Saturday of the space shuttle Columbia was in any way connected to past cutbacks in the shuttle program.

The budget is to be introduced Monday. In addition to hiking space funding, it also would slash taxes, pour money into defense at home and abroad and produce record deficits, setting the stage for a battle over tax and spending priorities in the run-up to the 2004 election.

NASA weighed retiring Columbia

CNN — The space shuttle Columbia, lost with its seven-person crew in a catastrophic re-entry accident on Saturday, was considered for retirement in 2001.

The oldest orbiter in the fleet, it had experienced engineering problems before during a long career that began with the first shuttle mission more than 20 years ago.

Yet none of the previous glitches on Co-



Space shuttle Columbia on the launch pad in Florida. It was the oldest orbiter in NASA's shuttle fleet.

lumbia, which underwent a \$90 million, 17-month overhaul that began in September 1999, were thought to have contributed to the fatal mishap.

The 90-ton shuttle, heavier than other spacecraft in the fleet, was the only one not outfitted to dock with the international space station.

NASA had considered mothballing it in 2001 because of budget constraints, but decided to keep it in service, in part to ensure flying several scheduled missions.

They included the one known as STS-107, which, after years of delays, went into space in mid-January for a rare mission devoted solely to science.

Inspectors accept Iraq invitation

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. chief weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei have accepted Iraq's invitation to return to Baghdad on Feb. 8 for a new round of talks with Iraqi officials.

"We have accepted this invitation to go to Baghdad with the clear expectation of action that needs to be taken by Iraq prior to the visit," International Atomic Energy Agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said Sunday.

The two chief weapons inspectors listed those actions in a letter delivered early Saturday to the Iraqi Ambassador at the United Nations, she said.

Fleming said the letter would be used to judge whether the meeting was successful, but was not a list of conditions for the talks.

She said inspectors would not speculate on what they would do if Iraq rejects the actions.

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The first aid the general referred to is the CA mission when soldiers first enter a combat zone. At first, CA units concentrate on quick impact projects designed to provide immediate humanitarian assistance in villages and towns, working in conjunction with infantry or special forces units.

Those improvements include anything from digging a new well to rebuilding a destroyed clinic. As operations continue — and the region proves more secure — efforts turn toward infrastructure improvements on a national scale.

The Army will soon officially move from combat-oriented to reconstruction operations, the fourth and final phase of the Pentagon's overall strategy in Afghanistan. That doesn't mean CA efforts will slow down anytime soon; they will migrate slowly from local level to national impact missions.

"We're still doing some of (those) humanitarian pieces, but we're more focused on the longer-term challenge of infrastructure building and institution building," Altshuler said. "Some would say this is a nation-building mission, and I would say this is inaccurate; the nation needs to be built by the Afghans."

As units move from local to high-impact national projects, the specialized skills already in place at CA units will be put to greater use.

Initial teams are usually comprised of doctors, engineers, lawyers and generalists (who make initial assessments at a new town); as CA's role matures, teams will feature more specialized experts in areas like organizational behavior, finance and education.

And as the mission matures, the number of soldiers needed at the unit level could diminish, according to Altshuler, though that doesn't mean the job in Afghanistan will slow down in any way.

"Though the skill sets and the structure may change, and the numbers of U.S. civil affairs may come down as more international and coalition organizations come in, the scope of the mission will not diminish until such time as the traditional government is not on such a steep learning curve," he said.

According to Altshuler, Afghanistan



File photo

Air Force Capt. Nathan Schalles, commander of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, poses with local children after handing out school supplies in the village of Bakhshkeyl Jan. 11. Quick-impact CA missions like this one are slowly migrating from local-level to national impact missions, according to Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Altshuler, commander of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne).

won't be like civil affairs missions of the past. Instead, the Army is testing out a concept that's never been tried before — anywhere. Rather than one Civil Affairs headquarters, in this case under the Coalition Joint Task Force-180 at Bagram Air Base, responding to resource and contracting requests from every CA unit in the country, theater commanders are looking to push decision making down to the provincial level.

Altshuler thinks the Provisional Reconstruction Team concept has merit, though there are still issues that need to be dealt with before the experiment can be considered a success.

A PRT consists of civil affairs, Special Forces, psychological operations and regular Army units.

"(PRTs) need to be somewhat autonomous, and they need to be empowered and resourced to do the things that the PRT commander identifies as necessary to complete his short-term and long-term missions," he said. "Empowerment of the PRT and its leadership is going to be critical to its success."

Despite the stress involved with the new PRT program, as well as the normal stress attendant with any combat zone deployment,



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Maj. Gen. Herbert L. Altshuler, commander of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), talks with soldiers from the Coalition Joint Civil - Military Operations Task Force in Kabul during a visit recently.

Altshuler said he's been impressed by the soldiers' attitudes throughout his tour of Afghanistan.

"I'm impressed with their attitude and I'm impressed with their morale," he said. "A large portion of this force is Reserve. A large part of them are not on their first deployment — and they know they are not on their last deployment — yet their focus is good, their enthusiasm is infectious and their ability to apply their considerable skill is admirable."

DoD begins Columbia shuttle assistance

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — NASA administrator Sean O’Keefe said the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew of seven a “tragic day” for the NASA family and America.

The orbiter broke apart above north-central Texas on Feb. 1 as it maneuvered for a planned landing at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., in about 15 minutes. The shuttle was at about 203,000 feet and going about 12,500 mph, or Mach 18, when the accident occurred.

Five of the seven astronauts aboard were serving U.S. military officers. Air Force Col. Rick D. Husband, Navy Cmdr. William C. McCool, Air Force Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson, Navy Capt. David M. Brown and Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Laurel B. Clark were presumed lost in the accident. Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla and Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon also died.

NASA Administrator O’Keefe notified President Bush of the accident soon after it happened. The president assured O’Keefe of the full support of the government.

“The Department of Defense will do everything asked of us by the lead federal agency – the Federal Emergency Management Agency,” said a DoD spokesman.

Bush spoke to the nation about the loss of the astronauts. “In an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the dangers of travel by rocket, and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the Earth,” the president said. “These astronauts knew the dangers, and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more.”

O’Keefe said there was no indication that anything from the ground affected the Columbia. He announced the formation of an external review group. The group, which will include

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Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “The Bourne Identity.” A man’s wounded body is discovered by fisherman who nurse him back to health. He can remember nothing and begins to try to rebuild his memory based on clues. He soon realizes that he is being hunted and takes off to find out who he is and why he is being hunted. Tomorrow’s movie will be “American Outlaw.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

| | <i>Today</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Bagram: | <i>Haze</i> H: 50F L: 23F | <i>Haze</i> H: 54F L: 23F |
| Kandahar: | <i>Sunny</i> H: 59F L: 36F | <i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 61F L: 30F |
| Kabul: | <i>Haze</i> H: 43F L: 23F | <i>Mostly sunny</i> H: 54F L: 21F |
| Uzbekistan: | <i>Mostly sunny</i> H: 66F L: 33F | <i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 68F L: 36F |

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

AFC continues its dominance in Pro Bowl

HONOLULU — Ricky Williams might be the NFL's most profoundly mellow star, so it isn't surprising that Hawaii's warm sun and cool breezes always bring out the best in him.

In his first Pro Bowl, the Miami running back rushed for 56 yards, scored two touchdowns and forced a fumble on special teams to earn the MVP award in the AFC's 45-20 victory over the NFC on Sunday.

Success on the islands is nothing new for Williams, who capped his Heisman Trophy-winning senior season at Texas by earning MVP honors in the 1999 Hula Bowl. Hawaii suits his famously detached personality, but his effort was anything but mellow.

"What's fun is how laid-back everything is," Williams said. "It's always great to get in the end zone, but it's especially great to do it against the best players in the world with millions of people watching."

He was the biggest contributor to a balanced AFC effort featuring 100-yard passing games by all three quarterbacks and a record-tying six interceptions by the defense. Staked to a big early lead by Williams and starting quarterback Rich Gannon, the AFC cruised to its sixth victory in the last seven Pro Bowls.

Williams, who led the NFL in rushing for the Dolphins after three tough seasons in New Orleans, also caught three passes as the AFC jumped to a 28-6 halftime lead and eliminated the tension — already minor at best — from this good-natured exhibition.

"I always like coming here, because it's a free vacation," said Oakland safety Rod Woodson, who had two interceptions in his 11th Pro Bowl appearance. "We were able to jump on top early with some big defensive plays, and that's all you need in this game."

Gannon, the MVP of the regular season and the previous two Pro Bowls, went 12-for-18 for 102 yards and two TDs as the NFL wrapped up its season with another high-scoring, entertaining all-star game. Drew Bledsoe passed for 122 yards, and Peyton Manning had 100.

The AFC nearly broke the Pro Bowl record of 51 points set by the NFC in 2000. But Buffalo's Eric Moulds was ruled out of bounds in the end zone with 1:24 left after a 36-yard pass from Manning.

The coaching staffs from Philadelphia and Tennessee made sure

the game was decided in the air. The teams set records for most combined pass attempts (101) and combined interceptions (8).

A sellout crowd at Aloha Stadium enjoyed another blowout victory for the AFC, which has dominated the matchup in recent years. Each of the AFC's players earned \$30,000 for the win, with the NFC's stars receiving \$15,000 apiece.



Tony Gonzalez of the Chiefs had five catches for 98 yards and a TD during Sunday's Pro Bowl.

Salary cap has Oakland facing choices

SAN DIEGO — The Raiders might not be the "Over The Hill Gang," but they are the "Over The Cap Crew."

No team has been \$48 million over the salary cap heading into an offseason until this season. But Oakland is.

As bad as that might seem, the Raiders should be able to trim the cap fat without losing too many of their starters. The release of seven players — only four of them starters — along with the continued substance suspension of defensive tackle Darrell Russell can save the Raiders \$35.7 million.

One scenario: say goodbye to defensive tackle Sam Adams, cornerbacks Tory James and Terrance Shaw, halfback Terry Kirby, safety Anthony Dorsett, defensive end Regan Upshaw and wide receiver James Jett.

But the Raiders have the flexibility to release other players and keep some of these. For example, Raiders coach Bill Callahan could elect to keep Dorsett and release Rod Woodson. And he might want to keep James, who was a valuable starter down the stretch despite playing with a broken leg. But the Raiders used their first round choice on cornerback Phillip Buchanon. They won't have the luxury of starting Dorsett and Woodson together because they have Derrick Gibson, their first-round choice in 2001. So one of the two must go.

Another player on the bubble is tight end Roland Williams, who makes \$2.033 million but is playing behind rookie Doug Jolley. Releasing him, though, doesn't create significant cap savings.

The remaining \$13 million could come from restructuring of contract by some of the Raiders senior leaders. As long as star players from this year's lineup don't ask for any raises from last season, they could restructure their contracts and save millions. Those nine players account for \$28.3 million of salary that could be converted into signing bonuses and minimum salary.

Bagram MWR coronates king, queen of spades

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – As the sun sets on the duty day, soldiers begin to move into downtime mode to unwind and forget daily deployment stresses. Some music, a movie or a good old-fashioned game of cards sometimes helps troops to forget about their troubles.

However, instead of the usual Friday night movie, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building decided to shake things up a little with the first King and Queen of Spades Tournament. Troops who hid their talent in their tents had a chance to strut their stuff Friday night to win some prizes and have some fun.

Spc. Richard Robinson, broadcast journalist, 11th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Polk, La., got the idea for the tournament from a routine call back home.

“I was on the phone with my wife one night last week, and we just got to talking about how a huge spades game would be a good change of pace out here,” said Robinson. “About two days later, I talked with Arthur Chandler, MWR coordinator, and we set the date for Jan. 31.”

In addition to talking with MWR coordinators and posting flyers, Robinson went to other great lengths to make sure the tournament was a success.

“A few days before the tournament was supposed to take place, I still wasn’t convinced we had enough people signed up,” said Robinson. “I took a flyer which advertised the tournament, food and prizes, hung it around my neck and stood in the North Dining Facility with a sign up sheet. People looked at me like I was nuts but I got 20 teams to sign up.”

According to Robinson, the tournament turned out better than he expected.

Of the 60 teams that signed up over 90 percent came out. The MWR movie room was packed with over 100 troops all competing to be the king or queen of the tournament.

“We already had an idea for a big card tournament; Spc. Robinson just helped move things along,” said Andy Finnerty,



Photos by Pfc. Christina Carde

Four soldiers play a game of spades at the King and Queen of Spades Tournament, Friday. Only one of the two teams moved on to the next round. The other was eliminated.

MWR director for Bagram. “He supplied the ideas and rules, and we helped with advertising, food, music and prizes.”

In addition to the two \$60 Base/Post Exchange gift certificates awarded to the champions, there were other prizes awarded to competitors just for showing up.

“We have David Letterman t-shirts and phone card give-a-ways available to everyone,” said Finnerty. “Judging by the turnout, I think we’re going to do this a lot more.”

The event lasted over four hours. Each team played one game. The winner would go on to the next round, and the loser was eliminated. A team could also be eliminated if they didn’t play by the house rules.

“I tried to draw up a set of rules which encompassed some of everyone’s traditional playing techniques,” said Robinson. “Anyone who didn’t follow the rules was disqualified.”

At approximately 1815Z, the last two teams sat down to play the marathon round. The first team to score 500 points would be declared king and/or queen of the tournament and win the certificates. In the end,



At the end of the tournament, Meaghan Adams and Scot Roberts, 310th Psychological Operations, 20th Special Forces Group, were declared the queen and king of tournament and awarded a \$60 gift certificate for the Base/Post Exchange.

Meaghan Adams and Scot Roberts, 310th Psychological Operations, 20th Special Forces Group, won the tournament with 535 points.

Robinson said he was thrilled with the turnout.

“It was so rewarding to see over 100 soldiers having fun, laughing and carrying on from just a good old-fashioned card game,” he said. “I really hope we can do this again.”

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representatives from the Air Force and Navy, will have full access to all data involved in the mishap. NASA will also empanel an internal mishap group.

DoD will make all applicable information available, including radar reports generated out of U.S. Strategic Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Also, the DoD Manned Space Flight Support Office will work closely with NASA, the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. (FEMA officially will become part of DHS by March 1.)

U.S. military bases in Texas are standing by to assist FEMA in any way possible. And the newly formed U.S. Northern Command will also help civilian authorities upon request.

A visibly moved O'Keefe spoke of the mishap during a Feb. 1 press conference from Kennedy Space Center. "It started out as a pretty happy morning awaiting the landing of STS-107," he said. "We highly anticipated their return, because we couldn't wait to congratulate them for their extraordinary performance and their excellent efforts on the science mission on this very important flight.

"(The crew) dedicated their lives to pushing the scientific challenges for all of us here on Earth. They dedicated themselves to that and did it with a happy heart, willingly and with great enthusiasm. The loss of this valiant crew is something we will never be able to get over."

O'Keefe said he told the families of the



The seven STS-107 crew members take a break from their training regime to pose for the traditional crew portrait. Seated in front are astronauts Rick D. Husband (left), mission commander; Kalpana Chawla, mission specialist; and William C. McCool, pilot. Standing are (from the left) astronauts David M. Brown, Laurel B. Clark, and Michael P. Anderson, all mission specialists; and Ilan Ramon, payload specialist representing the Israeli Space Agency. This photo was taken October, 2001.

astronauts that he will do everything to help them "work their way through this horrific tragedy."

NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight Bill Ready said the families are bearing up to the tragedy with an incredible amount of dignity. "One thing came across loud and clear as we were visiting with them," he said. "They knew the crew was absolutely dedicated to the mission that they were performing ... They believed in what they were doing."

Ready said the families told NASA to "find what happened, fix it, and move on. We cannot let their sacrifice be in vain."

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training. He was selected as an astronaut in 1996. This was his first flight into space.

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Laurel B. Clark was born in Iowa, but considered Racine, Wis., to be her hometown. She was married with one child. She received her bachelor of science degree in zoology in 1983 and doctorate in medicine in 1987, both from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Clark also was designated as a Naval flight surgeon. She was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. She made numerous deployments, including one overseas to the Western Pacific, practiced medicine in austere environments and flew on multiple aircraft.

Prior to her selection as an astronaut candidate, she served as a flight surgeon for the Naval Flight Officer advanced training squadron in Pensacola, Fla.

The Columbia mission was her first space flight.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

Edward Alexander Bouchet, physicist, chemist

Born: 1852 **Birthplace:** New Haven, Conn.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Bouchet was the first African American to graduate (1874) from Yale College. In 1876, upon receiving his Ph.D. in physics from Yale, he became the first African American to earn a doctorate. Bouchet spent his career teaching college chemistry and physics.

Died: 1918



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By Kevin Kilgore

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